

Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.



Volume XX-09

Number 08

March 9, 2009

Landing Parachute Demonstrator Test at Wallops is Successful



Sandra Kleckner Photos

NASA Wallops Flight Facility has completed the first step towards an early spring launch of the Max Launch Abort System (MLAS). The Landing Parachute Demonstrator (LPD) was successfully drop-tested on March 6 from a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter based at HX-21 Air Test and Evaluation Squadron, Pax River, Md. The test was to verify that the four main parachutes used in the MLAS design would properly deploy and support the mass and forces of a 17,000 pound Orion crew module.

The approximately 19,000-pound load simulating the crew module mass was lifted from Wallops Main Base to an altitude of 2,500 feet by the helicopter. It was then flown to Wallops Island and released. Approximately 5.5 seconds after release, the modified G-12 main parachutes deployed as designed. The LPD landed as planned on the north end of Wallops Island. This was the first parachute drop test conducted at Wallops in well over a decade and the first ever of this scale from Wallops.



Rebecca Powell Photos

So Far, 2009 is Dry by Ted Wilz, Senior Meteorologist

January left us with below average precipitation, and February was even drier.

During February, measurable precipitation was recorded on four days and totaled a scant .45 inches, well below our monthly average of three inches. We received just a trace of snow; also well below February's average of nearly three inches.

Although it felt quite chilly at times, February was not an overly cold month. The daily temperature was about 1.5 degree above average. The warmest day of the month was February 8, when we reached 69 degrees. This came within one degree of tying the record high for that date. We set no new record lows for the month. A new record high, 66 degrees, was set on February 12.

February was a fairly windy month, especially the latter part of the month. There were nine days between February 12 and 28th with 30 mph or greater winds. The strongest wind, 44 mph, of the month

occurred on the record-setting warm day, February 12.

I'm sure everyone is anxious for spring to arrive. April usually provides some very nice weather along the Eastern Shore.

High temperatures usually start out around 60 degrees at the beginning of April and warm to around 66 degrees by the end of the month. Lows start out in the low 40's and are in the upper 40's as May approaches. The warmest April temperature on record is 93 degrees, set on April 26, 1990. The record low for the month occurred on April 1, 1969, a brisk 24 degrees. We usually have 10 days with measurable precipitation during April, totaling a little less than three inches. Snow is very rare for this area in April, but can occur, as evidenced by the 3.5 inches that surprised us in early April just two years ago.

Hopefully, spring will arrive and stay with us this year.



For Sale

2003 Pewter Hyundai Santa Fe, 75 K miles, automatic, 4 cyl, pwr windows and door locks, 25 mpg, new tires. \$7,000. Call Betty Flowers, 757 665-4283.



Thank you

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls, visits and thinking of me at the time of my wife's death.

Larry Bowden

A long-time employee at Wallops and a recent EG&G retiree

Assessment of Terrier-Black Brant 36.207 Mission

Oct. 20, 2008 from White Sands Missile Range

Michael Kowalski, Naval Research Lab

Even as early as 10 hours post-flight, after payload recovery, it was obvious that the mission had accomplished comprehensive success.

Support was superb at all levels including NSROC (NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract), NASA and other WSMR (White Sands Missile Range) organizations at both WFF (Wallops Flight Facility) and WSMR during all phases – program, integration & testing, flight-ops.

Levels of cooperation, communication and respect between these teams and NRL were excellent. Overall our success was due to the technical, managerial and personal skill of mission manager, Ted Gass, who set the tone with a friendly and positive can-do attitude. Ted has my highest praise and I hope to work with him on a future mission.

Technical problems were encountered as is the nature of sounding rocket programs. All were solved with the help of this support team.

In summary, 36.207 experiment team members were treated like kings at both WFF and WSMR. The skill of NSROC and other support personnel is unmatched. Morale and enthusiasm is inexhaustible and I pray that this continues; the country is being well served.

Wallops Shorts.....

Balloon News

Preparations continue for this summer's long duration balloon campaign from Sweden. Shipment of equipment has begun. Scientific instrument payloads, Anti-Electron Sub Orbital Payload (AESOP) and Low Energy Electrons (LEE) are ready for shipment.

National Women's History Month

Christopher J. Scolese

Acting NASA Administrator

March is National Women's History Month, a time to celebrate and reflect on the many ways women

contribute to our country and our nation's space program. The 2009 theme for Women's History Month is "Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet."



As we commemorate this month, we reflect on how American women of every race and background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our organization in countless ways.

We at NASA are fortunate to benefit from the expertise of outstanding women at every center in our agency. I encourage you to use this celebration of Women's History Month as an opportunity to acknowledge the work of the women in your own organization and participate in the planned programs and activities.

Women's History Month Event
Featuring K.C. Stevenson
March 13
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Bldg. E-2

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Public Affairs Office, x1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found at: <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/news/newsletters.html>

Editor
Asst. Editor

Betty Flowers
Rebecca Powell